WFP in Latin America and the Caribbean

Second Regular Session of the Executive Board
Lola Castro, Regional Director, RBP

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Estimates of severe food insecurity
October 2021

Based on 20,000 remote surveys and over 35,000 telephone interviews

In January 2020 around 3.5 Million people were estimated to be food insecure.

NOW, a year and a half since the spread of COVID-19 in the region, there are approx. 12.3 Million food insecure people in the region, which is over four times higher than pre-crisis.
4.3 million people are food insecure (IPC 3+4).

WFP has assisted 1.15 million people this year with school meals, emergency assistance (food and cash), and resilience building activities.

374,000 people affected by the earthquake are targeted with food and cash assistance.
2M + migrants suffering from food insecurity.

450,000 suffering from severe food insecurity.

1 out of 4 migrants reported their food intake to be once daily or none at all.

What is included in our assistance?

- Cash transfers
- Commodity vouchers
- Value vouchers
- Hot meals
- School feeding
- Food baskets (in kind)
- Food kits
WFP works with Indigenous and Afro-Descendant Peoples in the Highlands and Caribbean coast of Central America, in Andean and Amazonian communities, and in the Caribbean
Migrants are mostly men, ages 18 to 34, labour-force. Leaving often vulnerable family members behind.

75% travelled irregularly

Migration costs on average almost 2 years of salary.

Still, the poor leave Central America as much as people with high income USD 2.2 billions spent annually to migrate USD 1.7 billions to travel irregularly with a smuggler.

9 out of 10 migrated to the United States, only 60% reached their destination, 33% returned/deported back

Migration study carried out by WFP, OAS, IADB, MIT, and MPI in the first half of 2021 to explore factors that drive migration.